

Matters of Interest to the American Woman

How to Keep Out of The Divorce Court

THE greatest danger that menaces family life, says a woman writer on the home subject, is its too great familiarity. It's pretty hard, of course, to continue to worship a man as a hero of romance after you find out that he eats onions and snores. By the same token it must be a strain on the masculine imagination to see an angel in the woman who comes down to breakfast in slouchy wrapper and curl papers. It is when these homely details of existence clash that love's young dream gets its first jar, and Cupid so often shuts up shop and quits the business.

Perhaps the best remedy for this, and the one thing that would do more to promote conjugal felicity than anything else, would be the introduction of a little more of formality and conventionalism into domestic life, and the putting of less faith in the fallacy that marriage gives you carte blanche to treat the people of the other part as you please. Personally I am convinced that politeness will do more than the strongest moral principles to make a happy home. You can't be courteous and quarrelsome or considerate and nasty at the same time, and if we put more stress on the efficacy of good manners and less on the potency of undying affection, fewer people would land in the divorce court.

We don't do this. We give our best—our best manners, our best conversation, our best clothes, our best food—to strangers, while to our own—to the people we would suffer for, and die for—we show a lack of consideration that is not even common decency. There isn't a person living so dull that he cannot pick out a husband and wife in any crowd. We know them by the way in which they straggle along on the street, the heavy, dull silence that reigns between them, by their listless and bored expression, by the way in which they blame each other for every contumacious, by the very fact that they are treating each other as they would not dare to treat any other human being.

This is not what they married for. If when they were lovers they could have looked into the future and seen themselves disillusioned, bored, two people who had gotten on each other's nerves, and got nothing but friction out of life, they would have fled matrimony as they would the leprosy. It is a common tragedy, but one that I never see without wondering if it could be avoided, if the wife would only treat her husband like she would some other man whom she desired to please. Every woman knows what that means, because every woman has her little repertoire of stunts—airs and graces and fascinations—that she goes through for the benefit of the person on whom she desires to make a good impression.

Suppose, for instance, the man who is coming to dinner tonight were not your patient, tired John, who spends his life telling for you, but some other man whom you liked and respected, what would you do? You would see that your table was well spread and the little dishes he affected most were specially prepared, and when he would put on a pretty frock, and when he came give him a gracious welcome that would make him feel that his coming brought happiness and brightened the hour. No

matter what little vexations had tormented the day, you would put them away. You would not dream of worrying him with all the details of the cook's failures and the children's badness, and still less would you vent on him the temper and crossness and spleen that you had been accumulating on account of your dressmaker failing you and the cat breaking your best vase. On the contrary, observing that he looked tired and worn you would exert yourself to entertain him. You would tell him all the funny stories you had heard, you would give a sketch of your latest club meeting that would make him laugh, and you would retail to him all the cheery personal gossip you know of your intimate friends.

Perhaps the man is fond of talking himself. You would ask him a deft question or two to get him started on his hobby, and you would listen with apparently rapt attention while he explained the situation in Manchuria, or prophesied about what the Democratic party was going to do, and if he told some stories, no matter if you had heard them from your infancy up, you would laugh at the right spot if you had to take laughing gas to do it.

But how are you going to treat your own husband? If you feel like dressing, you will do it, but not for him. Oh, dear, no. Any old rag is good enough for your husband. Also any sort of a dinner, and if he don't like what is set before him, he can lump it, that's all. Men—at least husbands—think too much about eating, anyway. When he comes in you won't raise your head to more than grunt out, "That you, John? Be sure to latch the door, you'll let the cat out." Then you commence the Jeremiah of the day about how the coal is out, and the cook says she's got to have more wages, and the baby bumped its head, and the meat didn't come, and goodness knows what makes a woman get married, anyway!

And if poor John survives this deluge of woes, and heroically tries to tell a story, you break right into the best part of it with some perfectly irrelevant remark that shows you haven't listened to a word of it. And poor John, thinking of the charming way you treat perfect strangers, must wish with all his heart and soul that he was a casual guest instead of a fixture in your house.

Worse than all, and the rock on which the matrimonial ship is oftentimes wrecked, is the fatal mistake women make in supposing that marriage gives people a right to speak the truth to each other. No woman is dull enough to fall into that error in regard to other men. No daughter of Eve was ever so stupid as to even dream of pointing out his faults to a stranger. Imagine a woman telling Mr. Brown to his face that his taste is atrocious, or Mr. Smith that his long-winded stories are a bore, or Mr. Jones that he is a pretentious prig, or Mr. Gray that his vanity makes him a laughingstock. Why, a jury of her peers would convict such a woman of insanity on the spot, but plenty of women have the nerve to say such things to their husbands, and then wonder that love pans out. If women would only use half the compliments in holding a husband that they use in getting him, we should hear very little of recalcitrant spouses.

Stockings==Schools==Fruit.

NOW that open-work stockings of white silk are worn with black as well as white shoes, one must pay as much attention to one's feet as to one's hands. The feet may be pedicured once a week by a professional, if one pleases, or does not know how to accomplish this one's self. The whole foot should be massaged, heel, sole, instep, ankle, and each toe separately. After this has been done carefully, but rigorously, and with massage cream, the feet must be soaked in warm, soapy water, in order to soften the cuticle. Pumice stone must be employed gently to remove any roughness or callousness of the sole, or incipient corns, and an orange-stick is desirable for the nails, with a little peroxide of hydrogen and powdered pumice stone. The nails may then be rubbed with cold cream or vaseline, and well polished with a soft, dry rubber. The foot will then be a thing of beauty, and even if no one sees it but its owner, she will feel amply repaid for the time and trouble expended on its care and improvement, every time she draws on her stockings.

In our public schools the children are being taught to spell words with double letters thus: "B-o-o-k, book; f-o-o-d, food," etc., without the use of the "double o," or whatever they may be. This may be all right, and probably is, but confuses the schoolmaster of a decade ago. An exchange tells the story of a lad whose teacher has not adopted this new measure, and perhaps it is a point in favor of it. This Kentucky boy had some trouble in learning to say "double l," "double s," and the like, but finally it stuck, and one day he was called upon to read a lesson concerning the early river, beginning, "Tip! up! and see the sun!" He read it "Double up! and see the sun!"

Be careful to wash fruit before eating, for the reason that Dr. Ehrlich, a German scientist, asserts that twelve million bacteria inhabit the skins of a half pound of cherries. Grapes are said to

have eight millions of germs on their skins. Infection of fruit with bacteria is well known; but not to this appalling extent. Train the children to peel or wash all fruit, therefore, before eating it.

A girl who has just returned—with her new spouse, of course—from the honeymoon, amused a coterie of friends with a description of it last week over the lead tea.

"We had a lovely time," she declared, with a sigh of satisfaction. "Bertie and I are a model couple so far as suitability goes. And if you only knew what was in the old black trunk we took with us—ah! That's where the honey of our honeymoon was!"

"Cards? Champagne? Ping Pong set?" one hazarded.

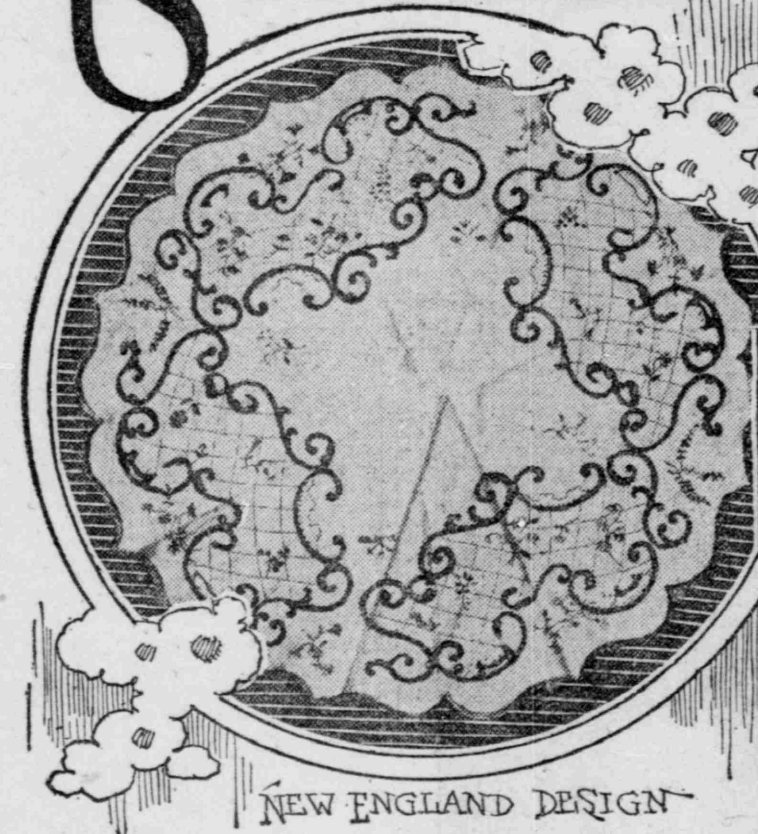
"No, none of them," she put up her heavily-ringed hand and whispered mysteriously in my ear: "Onions!"

"Great heavens! Why?"

"Because neither Bertie nor I had ever had enough onions in all our little lives. Think of it: with strings of them in every shop at a penny a pound! And we love them—just love them! But because we only picked little scraps on the top of the beefsteak or munched tiny snips in a salad, while all the time we were longing for platefuls!"

"So we arranged with each other that we would go to some lonely place for our honeymoon, where there would be no decent people at all, and have a regular onion debauch. And we did. More like an onion-moon, did you say? Well, I don't mind. We had them fried in butter—a vegetable dish full, and boiled with white sauce, and done up with clipped potatoes, and—well, even raw with bread and cheese! It was just lovely, and if we did get a little surfeited toward the end, it was just as well, because we had to swear off three days before we went back to town to get rid of the traces. I do not think Bertie need have drunk one de cologne, but he did, and he said it was not a disagreeable remedy on the whole. Yes, we enjoyed ourselves; but a silly person like you, who would not sit in the same room with a shred of an innocent little spring onion could hardly understand how much!"

TABLE CENTRES IN ARTISTIC STITCHERY



THESE large centers find a place on both round and square tables, on polished wood or over a cloth. Often there is a demand for this size, while many of the shops show the smaller ones. No. 1 has a Persian design brought over to us by our New England forefathers, so we often call this a New England design. Scrolls and flowers are in shades of blue, and form a beautiful background for use with old blue china of the same colorings. Scrolls are in stuffed satin-stitch—first stuffed with cotton, and then, in the opposite direction, the strands of glossy floss are laid quite close together, forming a satin-like appearance in its smooth, even glossiness of silk; hence its name, satin-stitch. An artistic design is always expressive of its mode of workmanship, for in even plain ways of working we find artistic character. This Persian design in blues is most artistic, for there is art in the rendering of forms by means of outline—art in the choice of lines which can be expressed by such lines. It is not uncharitable to surmise that the reason why such work as the Persians used so long ago is not as popular among the needlewomen of today is because of the demands it makes upon the designer's draftsmanship. At the time this graceful design was originated all such work was universal. There is a pronounced and early limit to art of this rather naive kind, but that there is art in some of the very simplest and most modern peasant work of the period of this design built upon these lines of beautiful scrolls no one will deny. The flowers in these graceful scrolls are in shades of old china blue, from the palest gray blue to the deepest indigo, and

the finely outlined trellis is of the darkest as well as the buttonhole edge. Blooms are in the opalescent blendings of palest straw and salmon, whites and Niles, creams and oyster grays, all the palest of the pastel colorings, in solid Kensington stitching, while this same work is used in blendings of the olive shades in the foliage and stems. The rope edge is of mossy greens, each twist of it formed by the three shades of glossy silks, using the lighter shades for the extreme edge of each twist of the rope, forming the most beautiful of blendings in this large twist that forms the edge of this design. Tassels are of fine outlining and trellis of lace stitch of twisted Nile silk and linen cut from underneath to give the open-work. Exquisitely Arranged Orchid Designs.

Gracefully thrown on this most artistic of natural designs, wrought in soft shades of lilacs, raisins, old pinks, grayish whites and greens, browns and creams—all exquisitely blended in these beautiful flowers, and all in feather-stitch (the stitch used for the breasts of birds) of the Kensington school—soft and shimmery in shades of shining flosses. Edge of rocco design from the French school is formed by two shades of softest Nile greens blended in solid stitching for the scrolls and trellis of bulb stitch of green twisted silk and wash gold thread. This bulb stitch is formed by threads of silk first crossing from edge to edge of design at intervals of evenness apart, then lines of silk in the opposite direction, forming a basket stitch. Then the gold thread of the wash Japanese variety is used over this first made basket stitch trellis by winding and weaving little spiders of it at the crossing sections of the basket stitch, all on the surface, so that from underneath the linen is cut and edged turned nearly back, the same as on the edge, thus forming a beautifully dainty edge of trellis openwork.



Suggestions for the Household Gowns for the Short Vacation

LAYER CAKE is a favorite variety, and Columbia is the name that has been given to a recent addition to the list. Batter is prepared as for the ordinary layer cake, one-half the mixture being poured into two shallow tins and baked for a quarter of an hour in a fairly hot oven. To the remaining portion of the batter is added a cupful of raisins, seeded and chopped, a tablespoonful of syrup or molasses, one-quarter pound of citron, one teaspoonful each of cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, allspice, and a spoonful of sour. When thoroughly mixed pour into a round buttered tin of the same size. The others and bake, a little longer time being required than for the plain layers. While hot place the fruit cake between the two layers of plain cake, spread with a little currant or other jelly between each layer to make them adhere. When cold cover with white icing.

To remove a white mark left on a polished oak table try this method: Hold a hot iron a little above the mark, withdraw for a minute, hold in position again when the wood has cooled, repeat the process until the mark has disappeared.

Pickled carrots make an excellent substitute for pickles. Boil the carrots until tender, cut into fancy shapes, and cover with spiced vinegar.

China toilet sets in solid colors have recently made their appearance, dark green and red being conspicuous in the collection. Handles of red adorn the green sets and vice versa.

Even the prosaic Turkish bath towel has come under the influence of art nouveau. The latest productions show borders in new art designs.

At housecleaning time, brighten tins and other cooking utensils. Put them all in the wash boiler and place on the fire with plenty of water and a liberal

amount of washing soda. Let them boil for twenty minutes, remove the wash boiler from the fire, but do not take the tins out for three hours.

To remove stains from white and delicate paint rub with a cloth wrung out of warm water and dipped into prepared chalk.

Ink stains on polished wood should be touched with a camel's hair brush or a feather dipped in sweet spirits of niter. Rub the spots immediately with a cloth dipped in sweet oil.

This is one way of washing handkerchiefs, recommended by an experienced housewife. Dip them in warm water, soap each one on both sides, fold loosely and put them in a pile in a basin without water, to soak for an hour or longer. Rub them on a washboard with a large nail brush dipped in hot water, boil for a few minutes, rinse in clear water and dry. Begin the ironing in the center and not on the border.

Next to the casserole, the most popular utensil for the kitchen is the ring mold. This is a common ice-cream mold, made in the form of a ring with an open center. It has such possibilities that no housewife should be without it. The cooks of the wealthy are using these ring molds. So is the little woman who does her own work and likes to give her friends and family pretty dishes.

She fills her ring mold with a fruit gelatine, turns it out on a platter and fills the center with whipped cream, a delightful jelly. Or she fills it with tomato jelly and piles mayonnaise in the center. For a luncheon she fills it with mashed potatoes, browns them, then fills the center with chops, the ends covered with paper frills. Or she fills it with plain vanilla ice-cream and arranges strawberries and other fresh fruits in the center. There are no end of combinations possible.

Proper Time to Send Wedding Gifts

IT is a golden rule to send your wedding gifts in good time, the first to arrive being much more appreciated than that which is one of the many pouring in from all quarters during the last week.

By adhering to this rule you are also saved the annoyance of hearing that the salt cellars are charming though they be the third set already received.

A month before the wedding day is not too early to send the present, which should be accompanied by a visiting card.

The package should be addressed to the bride if you are intimate with both the happy couple; even if the bride be

a stranger you must still send her the gift.

Many people wish to give something novel, useful and pretty. The future circumstances of the recipients should influence the choice. If they are going abroad do not give anything unsuitable to the requirements of the climate or so cumbersome that the packing and conveying to its destination will amount to half the value of the present.

If the happy couple are likely to receive many presents it is safe to give something which will not be amiss if received in duplicate, such as silver sweetmeat dishes, silver teaspoons, or a bronze or china ornament.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Origin of the Wedding Ring

THERE is much marrying and giving in marriage these days, and at each and every ceremony bride and guests are careful to preserve hallowed traditions. Superstition may be defied on all occasions but these. A wedding without blue garters and rice and old shoes is almost, if not quite, as bad as "Hamlet" with the Prince of Denmark out of the cast. But, although everybody knows what should be done to propitiate the good fairies, few have any idea of the origin of the hundred and one customs attending the wedding day.

The use of the ring is, without doubt, the most ancient and symbolic accessory of the celebration of marriage. So prevalent is the feeling regarding its indispensability that strange substitutes have been used in cases of emergency when the conventional hoop of gold had been forgotten. Curtain rings and key rings have done duty, and a more personal substitute has often been devised by cutting a ring from the bridegroom's glove.

Anciently a ring marked an office of great dignity, being worn only by a king or given by him to his messengers, that their authority might be established. As civilization advanced and woman's position was more chivalrously regarded, the ring was given her as a token of the high dignity bestowed upon her in the marriage ceremony.

The choice of the form of the ring is for a twofold reason—the poetic meanings ascribed to it, and the fact that its plainness makes it more practical for constant use. Among the Egyptians a circle was the hieroglyphic expression of eternity. Its adaptation for use as the marriage token in preference to a pin or earring or any other kind of ornament is said to be that it can be worn constantly, and is not put off with any particular garment; also, that it is always within sight of the bride, keeping the bridegroom in mind.

Various reasons are given for the adoption of the so-called ring-finger as the resting place of this emblem, and to this usage also the fanciful and utilitarian mind have ascribed diverse origins.

The former interpretation has it that the belief was very current, before the days of advanced anatomy, that a small artery ran from this finger to the heart directly. What could be more to the purpose of poetical logic than that the wedding ring should rest there? The choice of the left hand is by some supposed to symbolize the submission of the wife to her husband.

The practical mind disposes of these fancies by suggesting that in this position the ring was more protected from wear and injury or loss, as the left hand is not so much in use as the right, and this finger is protected on either side and is capable of a less degree of independent action than any other finger.

In many old pictures of the Virgin, Her ring was painted on Her forefinger, as was the custom for the wearing of it in ancient Greece and Rome. This finger is the one nearest the mount of Jupiter, indicating the pride of dignity.

An old Italian custom placed the birth-month stone of the bride in her wedding ring, and this idea became elaborated into the using of twelve stones, one for each month. That a good fairy might be propitiated. Through this custom the ring became so enormously expensive as to be a severe tax on many a humble groom in the middle ages, and hence the revulsion to the plain circlet of gold in universal use.

The modern practice of a gift of jewelry from the groom to the bride (aside from the engagement or wedding ring) is a survival of the old institution of the "draw-purse," or purse of coins, which he gave her to signify that he had purchased her from her friends.

Baby Hat Novelty

THE type of woman who looks well in a baby hat is having her innings just now as never before, says the "Chicago Tribune." She takes to the country a bunch of washable hats and sunbonnets, which are exactly like baby things in all but their size, and, in fact, she gets them in the baby departments of the stores.

There is a new figure golf hat which, except for its big black taffeta bow, is like the little pink or blue Marseilles chevron that baby girls have worn for so long, and which is much more becoming than the cap of which it is the evolution. Then there is a sunbonnet made without any curtain in the back and with a great, scoopy brim to fit over hair a la pompadour, which is really after all just a little Kate Greenaway bonnet. How many years ago grown-ups wore Kate Greenaway bonnets one summer before to match their gowns?

All the bridesmaids' hats this year are being made after the elaborate models of imported baby millinery, and the big affairs that are worn by the Continental babies are sold to women for wear at country lawn parties. So the woman whose small son has this luxurious kind of Sunday headgear can borrow it when occasion demands, with the satisfaction of knowing that if she can wear it at all it is the most fetching thing she puts on.

A Chicago girl who has cherished all of her cotton hats of last winter to take with her to a small town, says one needs more kinds of hats for a summer visit to a little place than are needed all of the year at home.

"Talk about their not wearing hats in the country," she says. "The first thing you get is an invitation to a porch party or a croquet party, with a notice down in the left hand corner to wear a tissue paper hat; or else you are invited to a hayrack ride and told to wear a sunbonnet."

The Girl Who Dresses Daintily

THE dainty girl has learned that it not only adds to her own self-respect and pleases her friends, for her to dress tastefully and becomingly, but it actually pays from a financial point of view as clothes that are well cared for will last twice as long as those that are carelessly treated.

By being careful with her clothes, the girl who is dainty and neat is enabled to buy many little extras to replenish her wardrobe, and she manages always to be nicely dressed, though she may have but a small dress allowance.

Neglected clothing is always unattractive and repulsive, and hats and dresses cannot be thrown around carelessly without giving strong evidence of such lack of care. Vells, laces, and ribbons can all be kept fresh and dainty looking by winding them over a roller, and they should be cleaned as soon as they show traces of soil.

A nice way to clean a white veil is to put it in a bowl of water and let it soak for half an hour in a

light suds, then squeeze the veil in the suds till it is quite clean and rinse in clear, cold water, to which has been added a little bluing and a little sugar. Keep your kid gloves clean by washing them in gasoline, but the most soiled parts should be cleaned first.

Keep the gloves on the hands until nearly dry, then pull them off in their proper shape and hang them up in the open air, and they will be unfaded and as soft as when new.

Care of the dress skirt is most important, and every spot should be removed as soon as it appears, and when a black dress skirt begins to grow rusty it can be recolored a jet black by dipping the skirt in black diamond dye; in the same way, and faded colored ribbons may easily be colored any of the rich dark shades. It is the little things that count.

"Take care of the pennies and the dollars will take care of themselves," is a trite saying, and the wise girl has learned that daintiness counts for more than expensive clothes.